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jevich, Governor



Department of Employment Security
James P. Sledge, Director

Guide To Career Choices

Law & Public Safety

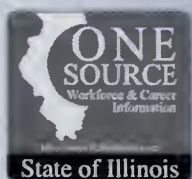
A brief look at:

- jobs
- education and training requirements
- wages
- outlook

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guide no. 12

ENTRY : the mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation

MEDIAN : half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less

EXPERIENCED : the mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation

HS : High School diploma or equivalent

AD : Associate Degree of Arts/Science
community college, 2 years

BA/BS : Bachelor of Arts/Science degree
colleges/universities, 4 years

Career Opportunities	OUTLOOK		ANNUAL WAGES			Education & Training
	2014 Employment	Annual Openings	Entry	Median	Experienced	
Security Guards	45,840	1,164	\$17,102	\$22,223	\$27,924	HS is preferred by employers. In Illinois, security guards must be registered. Applicants must be 18 years of age, successfully complete a 20-hour training course and pass a criminal history background check.
Lawyers	36,758	844	\$60,582	\$118,665	\$159,484	BA/BS, graduation from an approved law school, and passage of the written bar exam. Graduates receive the degree of "juris doctor" (JD).
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	31,290	920	\$39,560	\$61,119	\$66,542	HS; completion of police academy training; pass a written exam. Federal and state agencies typically require college degrees.
Fire Fighters	18,965	714	\$24,986	\$47,179	\$55,927	HS; completion of fire fighter training; pass written and physical exams. Fire fighter certification necessary in Illinois.
Correctional Officers and Jailers	14,586	318	\$37,653	\$43,125	\$46,666	HS; completion of correctional officer training; pass written and physical exams. At least 2 years of job or military training.
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	7,607	198	\$30,079	\$41,468	\$53,079	Some train on the job. Employers increasingly prefer applicants who have completed a formal training program. Programs range in length from a few months for a certificate to four years for a bachelor's degree.
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	5,182	139	\$24,032	\$35,606	\$42,119	HS/GED; most learn their skills on the job. Job skills include good communication skills and working well under stress.
Law Clerks	2,016	28	\$26,729	\$38,987	\$50,289	Part-time "clerkship" positions provide valuable experience for law students.
Judges and Magistrates	1,096	16	\$85,500	N/A	\$196,940	Law degrees are required for nearly all of these elected or appointed positions.
Administrative Law Judges, Adjudicators, & Hearing Officers	689	9	\$42,261	\$55,955	\$84,690	Federal and State judges must be licensed lawyers. Most states allow non-lawyers to hold limited jurisdiction judgeships. However, opportunities are better for those with a law degree.
Court Reporters	482	5	\$26,905	\$46,493	\$56,409	Completion of a two- or four-year shorthand reporting training program, offered at a vocational/technical school or college, is needed. Certification is required in Illinois.

Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2014.

Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include commissions and cost-of-living allowances, but exclude overtime and tips.

Job Descriptions

Lawyers

Represent clients in criminal and civil litigation and other legal proceedings, draw up legal documents, and manage or advise clients on legal transactions.

Administrative Law Judges, Adjudicators, & Hearing Officers

Conduct hearings to decide or recommend decisions on claims concerning government programs or other government-related matters and prepare decisions.

Judges and Magistrates

Arbitrate, advise, adjudicate, or administer justice in a court of law. May sentence defendant in criminal cases according to government statutes.

Paralegals and Legal Assistants

Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding or to formulate a defense.

Court Reporters

Use verbatim methods and equipment to capture, store, retrieve, and transcribe pretrial and trial proceedings or other information.

Law Clerks

Assist lawyers or judges by researching or preparing legal documents. May meet with clients or assist lawyers and judges in court.

Fire Fighters

Control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk.

Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers

Operate radio, telephone, or computer equipment to receive reports of fires and medical emergencies and relay information or orders to proper officials.

Correctional Officers and Jailers

Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit between jail, courtroom, prison, or other point.

Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district. May patrol a specific area on foot or in a vehicle; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents.

Security Guards

Guard, patrol, or monitor premises to prevent theft, violence, or infractions of rules.

What is the job outlook?

Overall employment in the law and public safety industry will grow as fast as the average for all industries. The demand for lawyers will be fueled by growth in the population and overall business activities. Growth may be somewhat dampened by the increased use of accounting firms and paralegals to perform functions previously done by lawyers. Opportunities will be excellent for paralegals as law firms and other employers with legal staffs increasingly hire them to lower costs and increase efficiency of legal services. In the public service sector, a more security-conscious society and concern about drug-related crimes will contribute to the increasing demand for police services and security guards. Fire fighters are expected to face tough competition for openings because the number of qualified applicants in most areas tends to far exceed the number of openings. Most job growth will occur as volunteer firefighting positions are converted to paid positions.

Where can I find more information?

The Illinois Department of Employment Security offers a wealth of information concerning the Illinois labor market. Visit **www.ILWorkInfo.com** to find out more about:

Career Planning: **Illinois Career Resource Network**
1-877-513-1987
des.icrn@illinois.gov

Labor Market Information: **LMI Source**
1-866-ONE-SRCE (1-866-663-7723)
des.lmi@illinois.gov

Workforce Information: **Workforce Info Center**
des.workinfo@illinois.gov

For assistance with employment and training issues, contact your local Illinois Employment and Training Center. Call 1-888-367-4382 to find the location nearest you.



Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

James P. Sledz
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Sources:
Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook."

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